

RESIST THE GOP'S CUTS IN EDUCATION: APPROVE A BUDGET THAT BRINGS FINANCIAL STABILITY TO EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in upper New York State, far from Washington's budget battles, an elementary school teacher named Theresa McAnaney has learned she may be laid off, because her school district does not know how much money it will receive from the Federal Government.

The plight of Ms. McAnaney and 15 colleagues facing layoffs is profiled in a recent New York Times story, but their case is not unique.

In my own State of Michigan, pink slip notices must be given to teachers by April 8, less than 2 weeks from today.

Across the Nation, 40,000 people face layoffs, because school districts cannot plan their budgets.

The New York Times article goes on to say that, faced with uncertainty, school districts are also scrapping long-range plans.

Hurt most are programs in poor and urban school districts, dependent on Federal aid for remedial instruction in reading and math, drug-free School Zone, Head Start, and Title I.

Surveys from the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal reveal that most people consider education their top issue, and favor the same level or increased spending for education.

Mr. Speaker, we must resist the GOP's cuts in education and approve a budget that brings financial stability to educating tomorrow's leaders.

URGING TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO UPDATE REGULATIONS TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF DOMESTIC OIL RESERVES

(Mr. MCCRERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, no single component of our national economy is more important than energy. Yet, today we find ourselves more dependent on foreign sources of petroleum than at any time since 1977. Right now, imported oil accounts for over 50 percent of domestic consumption. By the year 2015, the Department of Energy forecasts that America will only supply one-third of its domestic needs. That means our Nation will rely heavily on other countries to fuel our cars, heat our homes, and drive our economy.

I am concerned that we are not being sufficiently aggressive in our efforts to reverse this trend. In the United States, we have vast proven reserves in existing fields that can be accessed, but only with advanced oil recovery tech-

nologies. Since 1990, we have recognized that to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, certain new recovery technologies should be encouraged through the enhanced oil recovery credit. Unfortunately, the eligible technologies identified do not reflect the latest developments in this field.

To take full advantage of our domestic oil reserves, I urge the Treasury Department to use the specific authority Congress provided, to update the regulations to include new recovery technologies. Doing so will reopen access to much needed domestic oil and provide new skilled job opportunities in the domestic economy.

LET US REWARD WORK AND INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today's New York Times reports that 1995 was a very good year for the heads of corporations. According to the report, their median salary and cash bonuses rose to more than \$2 million. That is \$2 million a year in compensation.

Since 1990, corporate salaries have been rising at a fast clip of 9 percent per year, while wages and salaries of the Nation's workers are dead in the water, going nowhere. Hard-working families in America are scrambling to figure out how to find the money to pay their bills. Yesterday we had an opportunity to do something for those families, and instead, this House turned its back. At a time when corporate CEO's average \$2 million a year, when Members of this Congress earn over \$130,000 a year, House Republicans yesterday killed an attempt to raise the minimum wage by 90 cents, just 90 cents. It is shameful.

This Monday is the anniversary of the last increase in the minimum wage, which is now at a 40-year low. America needs a raise. Let us reward work and increase the minimum wage.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 170, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 170) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes when called up; and that it be in order at any time to consider the joint resolution in the House; that the joint resolution be debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be equally divided and controlled by myself and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]; that all points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration be waived; and that the previous question

be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion, except one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, let me simply say that I do not intend to object. The gentleman has consulted on this side of the aisle, and I think that the process which he has in mind for bringing up this resolution is the correct one. We do not necessarily like the result that flows from it, but I think it is in order to facilitate its consideration at a later point today, so I have no objection.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, so I can clarify, can the gentleman tell us when he plans to take up the legislation? I do not plan to object.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman, this continuing resolution will continue the existing temporary funding laws in effect until April 24, which avoid any government shutdown and while it sounds like a long time, is really only 6 legislative days from today.

Mr. VOLKMER. Does the gentleman plan to take it up later today, this afternoon, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. I am sorry, this CR will be brought up later today, after the product liability conference report.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 956, COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY LEGAL REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 394 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 394

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.